

The City of Clayton
Community Equity Commission
Virtual Zoom Meeting
September 10, 2020 at 5:30 PM

Minutes

The meeting was called to order at 5:33 pm.

Roll Call

Present: Yvonne Tisdell, Laura Horwitz (Chair), Chris Schmiz, Ben Uchitelle, Stuart Berkowitz, Frances Pires, Nikki Bisel, Rev. Laurie Anzilotti (ex officio), JoAnna Schooler (ex officio), and Ellen Gale (ex officio).

Additional: Alderwoman Boulton, Alderwoman Buse, City Manager David Gipson, and Assistant to the City Manager Andrea Muskopf.

Minutes

Ben Uchitelle moved to approve the August 13, 2020 minutes. Stuart Berkowitz seconded the motion. All were in favor.

Old Business

Mayor's Commemorative Landscape Task Force (Task Force)

Assistant to the City Manager Muskopf shared that the Task Force met for its first meeting. All meetings and agendas are posted on the City's website.

Neighborhood Indentures Update

Assistant to the City Manager Muskopf shared that staff sent out an email to neighborhood trustees reminding them to review their indentures and ensure compliance with Missouri statutes. A copy of the email was included in the agenda packet.

Boards and Commissions Handbook Update

City Manager Gipson shared that staff is finalizing the handbook and it will be sent out upon completion.

Public Comments from August 13 Meeting

City Manager Gipson provided an overview on the public comments from the August 13 meeting and explained that both items were being discussed by the Communications Subcommittee.

Subcommittee Reports

Communications Subcommittee

The Communications Subcommittee will review the "Reporting Suspicious Activity" graphic. Yvonne Tisdell presented items on which the Subcommittee has been work including a tracking device, template for responses to public comments, and a calendar to recognize heritage month celebrations.

Chris Schmiz motioned that the Community Equity Commission recommend to the Board of Aldermen that the City celebrate heritage in a “Community Equity Commission” section in City Views. Ben Uchitelle seconded the motion. All were in favor.

Law Enforcement Subcommittee

The Law Enforcement Subcommittee presented their recommendations and advised that the Commission recommend to the Board of Alderman and the Mayor that the City of Clayton begin:

- launching a community education program regarding the problem of suspicious persons calls.
- publicizing and enforcing of City Ordinance 215.750, which makes it an offense to misuse the dispatch system after public warning.
- sharing with the Commission on a monthly basis dispatch data regarding suspicious persons calls.

Stuart Berkowitz motioned that the Commission approve the recommendations from the Law Enforcement Subcommittee and exercise the option for additional services in the Candorum Consulting Report. Ben seconded the motion. All were in favor.

The Law Enforcement Subcommittee also advised that the Commission recommend to the Board of Alderman and the Mayor that the Police Department of the City of Clayton begin:

- a request to look into the contents of the Mutual Aid Agreement.
- require General Orders that ensure Clayton Police maintain Clayton standards of conduct when serving in a mutual aid contracts. These include things like protocols on use of force, body cameras, name tags, the arrest of peaceful protestors etc.
- Similarly we would request that the Board of Alderman require officers from other jurisdictions aiding the Clayton Police Department to adhere to Clayton standards of conduct.
- Update the Community Equity Commission on findings of the Mutual Aid agreement and general orders for these circumstances.

The Commission agreed that they would like to receive an update body cameras and General Orders at a future meeting.

The Law Enforcement Subcommittee advised and Stuart Berkowitz motioned that the Commission recommend to the Board of Alderman and Administration that the Police Department of the City of Clayton begin to prohibit the use of neck restraints in all cases without exception. Frances Pires seconded the motion. All were in favor.

Public Comment

Peter Smith encourage the Commission to consider unintended consequences in the deliberation of communication and education pieces about suspicious activity and mutual aid. He also shared that he disagrees about the removal of neck restraints from the General Orders.

Ellie Gund shared her experience during the protests in Florissant and her takeaways. She recommended that there is public, civilian review of body camera footage any time there are arrests at protests, withdrawal of Clayton officers from ongoing protest enforcement if police brutality occurs even if Clayton officers have not done it to avoid Clayton officers being implicated in that abuse, and that there are high standards of acceptance in the call for Mutual Aid.

Kathleen Gund shared that she hopes the Suspicious Activity graphic will not be revised but thrown out entirely.

Next Meeting Date

The next meeting is scheduled for October 8 at 5:30 pm.

Adjourn

Chris Schmiz moved to adjourn the meeting. Ben Uchitelle seconded the motion. All were in favor. The meeting adjourned at 6:59 pm.